

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Planning and Building	(2) MEETING DATE 10/16/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trevor Keith, Energy Program Coordinator/805-781-1431	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a Resolution for participation in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change Recognition Program			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution supporting the County's participation in the Beacon Award recognition program.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning and Building / Trevor Keith, Energy Program Coordinator

VIA: Jason Giffen, Director

DATE: 10/16/2012

SUBJECT: Submittal of a Resolution for participation in the Institute for Local Government's Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change Recognition Program

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution supporting the County's participation in the Beacon Award recognition program.

DISCUSSION

The Beacon Award

The Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change, is a newly established program of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) recognizing and celebrating cities and counties that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use; adopt policies and programs to address climate change; and promote sustainability. ILG is the non-profit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities (LCC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).

The Beacon Award program is funded by the California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Participation in the Beacon Award program is voluntary, and cities and counties self-report on progress toward achievement. In order to participate in the Beacon Award, cities and counties must complete a simple application and do the following:

- Adopt a resolution by the governing body committing the agency to participate in the program;
- Designate a lead staff person as a point of contact;
- Prepare, or commit to prepare, a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for agency facilities and the community as a whole (previously completed inventories using a commonly accepted methodology will be accepted);
- Prepare, or commit to prepare, a climate action plan that includes actions in each of the Best Practice Areas (previously completed plans using a commonly accepted methodology will be accepted);
- Demonstrate compliance with AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989; and
- Achieve specified measurable greenhouse gas reductions and energy savings in agency facilities, and achieve measurable greenhouse gas reductions and promote energy conservation activities in the community.

Participating cities and counties will be recognized with the Silver, Gold, and Platinum Beacon Award for achieving specified measureable reductions. The program will also recognize participants for interim accomplishments. Awards are achieved through the tiered scale of criteria below:

<i>Silver Beacon Award</i>	
Agency Facilities & Operations	
GHG Reduction:	5 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	5 percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
GHG Reduction:	5 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	1 activity that promotes energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	One activity in each of the ten Best Practice Areas

<i>Gold Beacon Award</i>	
Agency Facilities & Operations	
GHG Reduction:	10 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	10 percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
GHG Reduction:	10 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	2 activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	2 activities in each of the ten Best Practice Areas

<i>Platinum Beacon Award</i>	
Agency Facilities & Operations	
GHG Reduction:	20 percent in agency facilities & operations
Energy Savings:	20percent in agency facilities & operations from energy efficiency retrofits
Community	
GHG Reduction:	20 percent in the community as a whole
Energy Savings:	4 activities that promote energy efficiency in the community
Best Practice Areas:	3 activities in each of the ten Best Practice Areas

The ten Best Practice Areas referenced are from ILG's California Climate Action Network's Best Practices Framework which offers suggestions for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in each of the areas, for both agency facilities and the community at large. The ten Best Practice Areas are:

1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation
2. Water & Wastewater Systems
3. Green Building
4. Waste Reduction & Recycling
5. Climate-Friendly Purchasing
6. Renewable Energy & Low-Carbon Fuels
7. Efficient Transportation
8. Land Use & Community Design
9. Open Space & Offsetting Carbon Emission
10. Promoting Community & Individual Action

Once a city or county is accepted as a Beacon Award participant, it will work towards achieving one or more of the three award levels at its own pace. There is no deadline or timeline for meeting award level criteria; awards will be given out on an ongoing basis. However, participants will be asked to provide

periodic information about their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy and as well as progress in completing a greenhouse gas inventory, climate action plan and undertaking activities in the ten best practice areas.

Participants will receive special recognition at League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties events, be highlighted on the Beacon Award website, and receive certificates and other materials to display in agency facilities. They may also receive other appropriate and visible public tributes acknowledging their accomplishments.

Additional detailed information about the program can be found at www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward.

History

The County has already met most preliminary requirements to qualify for participation in the Beacon Award recognition program. For example, in May 2010, the County adopted a greenhouse gas inventory for both county operations and the community as a whole as part of the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) update. The COSE includes a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from county operations and communitywide sources by 15% below baseline levels by 2020. Additionally, the County's EnergyWise plan contains GHG emission reduction measures for both county facilities and the community as a whole.

Moving forward with GHG reduction and energy savings goals will allow the County to gain recognition through the Beacon Award program. Participating in the Beacon Award program will increase the County's visibility within our region and statewide. It is an opportunity to showcase the County's existing efforts to promote sustainability and save energy, even while working towards one of the three award levels.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

Administrative Office, Planning and Building Department and the General Services Agency are all members of the County's Energy Executive Steering Committee and the Energy Community of Interest. County Counsel has reviewed the resolution as to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Program participation is voluntary. Participating in the program may increase San Luis Obispo's competitiveness for future state or other grant funding. The program is designed to highlight and encourage existing efforts without requiring additional funding.

RESULTS

Participation in the Beacon Award program can help San Luis Obispo achieve recognition for its efforts in saving energy, conserving resources, promoting sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The County can highlight its accomplishments to better act as a leader in sustainability for its residents and for other agencies.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A Resolution approving participation in the Institute for Local Government's recognition program, the Beacon Award: Local Leadership toward Solving Climate Change